

V. Kearns' COLUMN

The Passing of Kilbane as Featherweight Champion Is Not Far Off.

THE passing of Johnny Kilbane, who has been the featherweight champion for eight years, but it is no sure thing that some comparatively insignificant featherweight is not going to rise up soon and put the cruet on Johnny, which will rob him of this title and make the story of his ring exploits sorrowful to his kids and grandchildren.

Johnny is, rather, was one of the best fighters that ever lived. He beat Abe Attell when Abe was going good. There was no fluke in his victory, and he became featherweight champion on his merits. One of these days, judging by Johnny's showing against Benny Valger in Newark Wednesday night, somebody not half so good is going to be knocking out. They all want to be in on the history-making subject of producing a new champion.

Just now matchmakers are offering Kilbane the most enticing kind of offer. Why? Because they know that if he sticks to the game he is going to be knocked out. They all want to be in on the history-making subject of producing a new champion.

MUCH criticism has been stirred up over Kilbane's claiming of Valger's \$1,000 forfeit because the latter was three-quarters of a pound overweight. Why should he claim it? The conditions of the match were that Valger was to make 124 pounds at 8 o'clock. He couldn't make it, and after all why shouldn't Kilbane hold it down to conditions?

Kilbane is the kind of a fighter that would not claim forfeits from any one, but in the Valger case he couldn't otherwise. He warned Valger of the importance of making the prescribed weight, and when Benny couldn't make that notch, Kilbane had nothing to do but claim his \$1,000. Valger offered to have the excess weight "rubbed off," then it was after 2 o'clock, the official weighing in time. Backing on the subject, Kilbane said: "I would not have taken any other fighter's forfeit, but Joe Jacobs and Valger have insisted me so much all over the country by declaring that I was afraid to make the match with Valger, that I decided to take the forfeit if Valger came in overweight. That \$1,000 is more to me than the \$5,000 that I received for boxing him."

MET a well known sporting man who said he had sworn off boxing matches, and that hereafter his interest was going to be centered on wrestling. We told Jack Curley about it, and he said the man in question was not to blame. "In boxing," said Curley, "you may get one thrill in a single evening, but in wrestling the whole evening is one continuous thrill. Then he told us an interesting story about Chevalier, who is going to meet Earl Caddock at the Garden next Tuesday evening in conjunction with a match between Jim London and "Strangler" Lewis. London recently gave Joe Stoeber the battle of his life and didn't stop until two hours and thirteen minutes had elapsed. Talking about the Frenchman, Chevalier, Curley said:

"Chevalier arrived from France a few weeks ago. Perhaps it would have taken some time for the populace to know of his presence, but he looked like a new law for Canadian-bound passengers to possess \$150 in gold. Chevalier had plenty of francs and contracts calling for more, also a letter of credit, but not the gold. So he was ordered to Ellis Island.

"At the last minute my office heard of the French champion's predicament and pulled him out of the back by rushing post-haste the necessary \$250 to his rescue. All this called for stories, and where ordinarily two inches of space would have sufficed to announce Chevalier's presence it was worked into front-page stories with pictures, both still and moving.

"CHEVALIER is the best wrestler in Europe. He won the title at the Inter-Ailed games in Paris, and was awarded the prize sans cash by Gen. J. Pershing. He would not exchange the scroll for the largest purse ever offered. In that tournament Earl Caddock was to appear. Caddock at the last minute refused to enter and returned to his regiment along with the Rhine. Caddock's excuse was illness, caused by an overdose of gas. Chevalier, his friends and some of Caddock's own buddies, claimed that Caddock felt that the game was too hard and refused to wrestle.

"He hit as it may. Chevalier immediately after his discharge from the army got into communication with Gen. Pershing, the Montreal promoter, placed himself under his management and came here in quest of Caddock and the championship. Meanwhile Caddock lost the title, but he is still thought of enough to make a victory over himself a first stepping stone for the real title match."

25th Regiment to "Hold Reception." Under the auspices of Johnny Lee, Company L, 25th Regiment, will hold a reception at the 6th Street and Columbus Avenue. The proceeds will be donated toward the purchase of a new uniform for the 25th Regiment men who lost their lives in the World War. Several of the officers have been promoted. Platoon Sergeant, Bobbie Tucker, Platoon Sergeant, Frank Hale have been promoted to sergeant.

BEST SPORTING PAGE IN NEW YORK

THE SETTING OF KILBANE'S SUN

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Navy Football Prospects Slump as Dobie Resigns To Coach Cornell Teams

After Successful Showing at Annapolis "Master" Coach Makes Sudden Decision to Take Speedy Rush's Place at Ithaca.

By William Abbott.

NAVY football stock, which skyrocketed after the Middlesboro clean-cut victory over the Cadets at the Polo Grounds last November, takes a decided slump following receipt of news from Annapolis that Gilman Dobie, the master coach, has pulled away from the sailors to sign a three-year contract to coach Cornell's eleven. Dobie's agreement with Annapolis had another year to run, and Navy cohorts have been optimistic over gridiron prospects. Dobie's sudden withdrawal to Ithaca comes as a shock to the Middy following.

According to word from Annapolis, Dobie declined to sign another three-year contract with the midshipmen. He had no complaint over his treatment at Annapolis, but frankly said he could receive more advantageous terms at Cornell. In view of this decision the Navy authorities reluctantly gave him a release on his old contract.

Dobie's career as a football coach has been one long string of successes. He came to the Naval Academy in 1912 from the University of Washington under a three-year contract, and has won five national titles. The midshipmen's string of victories was broken only in 1918 by the Great Lakes Naval Academy. The midshipmen were leading with only a minute or two to play with the ball down in the opponent's territory a Great Lakes

Zim and Chase to Quit Game

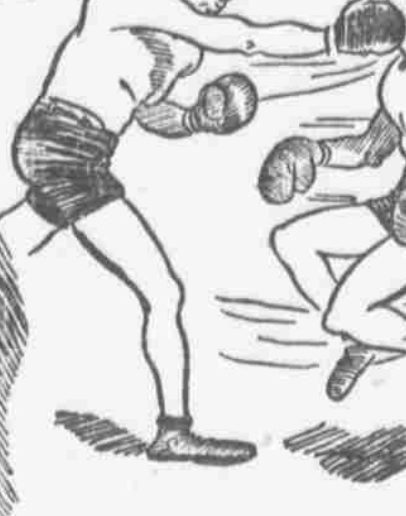
Retirement from baseball of both Heinie Zimmerman and Hal Chase was reported here today as the early vanguard of the Giant youngsters began to arrive for their spring training trip.

When Zimmerman was suspended for wayward conduct last summer Manager McGraw said Heinie would never play another game in a Giant uniform, but Chase was expected to be a regular as long as his legs held out. It was reported that both men would be waived out of the major leagues.

BRAZIL TO SEND TEAM TO THE OLYMPIC GAMES.

RIO JANEIRO, Feb. 27.—The Brazilian Sports Confederation and the Olympic Committee have resolved to send a delegation of sixty athletes to the Olympic games at Antwerp this summer. They have opened a credit of \$50,000, holding that the sports will benefit Brazil greatly.

FOR EIGHT YEARS JOHNNY HAS BEEN BOSS OF THE FEATHERWEIGHTS



KILBANE HAS BEEN FORCED TO CLING IN HIS RECENT FIGHTS AGAINST YOUNG FIGHTERS—AND SECOND RATES AT THAT



IT IS DOUBTFUL IF HE WOULD LAST IN A 15 ROUND BOUT AGAINST A FAST YOUNGSTER

Veteran Golfers Honor Travis

HAMILTON, N. Y., Feb. 27.—James T. Laird of Montpelier, Vt., Captain-elect and star of the Colgate football team of 1918, has been declared a professional and decorated from further participation in sports.

Laird, in company with several men from Syracuse and Colgate, played in a professional game at Buffalo on the day following the Syracuse-Colgate game.

Meadowbrook's Postponement Helps P. O. Clerks' Meet

Entry of All Stars Now Assured for Mailmen's Athletic Carnival.

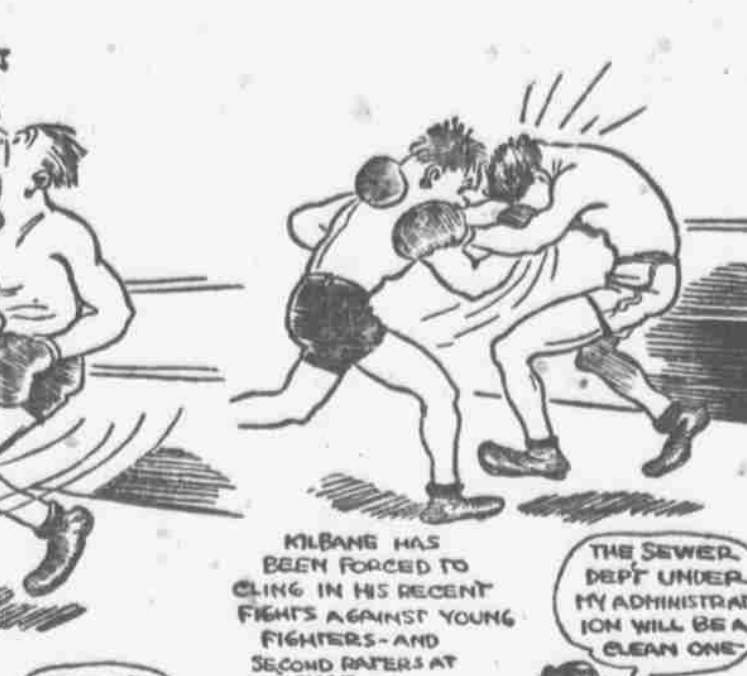
By Richard Freyer.

WHILE the indoor athletic season for 1919-20 has not met more weeks to run before "taps" is sounded, several important events are scheduled before its close.

The most important of these are the memorial games of New York Post Office Clerks' Association (of which good old Tommy Slevin is President), to be held at the 69th Regiment Armory, Saturday evening, March 6. The Meadowbrook games were scheduled to be held at Philadelphia on the same date, but the Quaker authorities have postponed their games indefinitely, and the clerks will benefit by securing the entries of star athletes who figured on performing in the home of William Penn.

The committee in charge of the mailmen's carnival has already succeeded in getting signatures to the entry blanks of a majority of the leading track and field stars of the East. Some record breaking performances are anticipated, and as the entire proceeds of the meet are added to a fund used to help out the post office boys who bunk up against misfortune, a record crowd is expected.

Events will include a 40-yard novice, 100-yard handicap, 600-yard handicap, one mile novice, one mile handicap, two mile handicap, relay, and a 400-yard relay. Special events will comprise the Post-Office Clerks' 1,000-yard invitation scratch, in which Jack Bell, Mike Devany and Anatole Bohn will start, one mile senior A. A. U. metropolitan championship, and two mile "old boys" walk handicap, closed to members of the Walker Club of America who have passed the forty mark. Two attractions, the Major McKenna 300-yard handicap and Sgt. Joyce Kilmer, one mile inter-collegiate relay, are closed to 69th members. Two other events, the 60-yard handicap and 1,000-yard handicap, are closed to post office employees.



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LIVE WIRES

By Neal R. O'Hara.

Connie Mack has opened the baseball season and we hope he can finish what he started.

If Cornell's looking for a football coach, Yale is willing to return Al Sharpe.

The tribulations will come after the Olympic trials.

All that the McGraw-Stonham split amounts to is 50-50 on the gate receipts.

Managing a ball club in St. Louis only means managing to keep out of eighth place.

Bill Edwards lost his football trophies, but he still remains a collector.

Cuthill is a great name for an amateur athlete.

You'll notice a hard-boiled egg is usually yellow inside.

Hank Gowdy's going back to the trenches. He's signed with the Braves again.

Giants weren't lucky enough to get the Rabbit's feet to fill Art Fletcher's boots.

Rule makers have cut down intentional passes and the magnates are working on the complimentary kind.

Guy that slams the ball over the fence in the last half of the final inning gets credit for a home run, but what does the kid get that brings the ball back?

The bootleggers are still working the hidden ball trick.

Kilbane Added \$9,500 to Bankroll for Half Hour's Work with Valger

Eight Round Bout in Newark Drew \$18,800, of Which Benny's Share was \$3,150.

By John Pollock.

Johnny Kilbane had a very profitable evening on Wednesday night. Besides getting a guarantee of \$5,000 for boxing Benny Valger he also took Valger's forfeit of \$1,000 for being overweight, which made his end \$6,000. According to the contract which Joe Jacobs, manager of Valger, had with the club officials he was to guarantee Kilbane \$5,000, the club \$4,000 for overhead expenses, was to be paid for all complimentary tickets over 500 taken in (there being several hundred more than that number) and was to receive 50 per cent over \$12,500. The gross receipts amounted to \$18,800. The tickets sold were as follows: 200 at \$1, 1,554 at \$2, 1,805 at \$3, 1,974 at \$5 and cash in the boxes \$3,150. Valger's end was \$3,150.

Charles Murray, the fight promoter of Buffalo, who came here to see the Kilbane-Valger bout, but so time in signing up Kilbane for a second bout at the Queensboro A. C. on Mar. 12, Thursday night, Mackintosh Fitzgerald has decided to turn over what money he makes in the Buffalo fight, for ten rounds. He is to receive a big guarantee for his services.

All attendance records for a boxing show held at Fordham, N. Y., were broken at the Jack Sharkey-Pal Moore fight at the Pine Tree A. C. of that city on Washington's Birthday afternoon. The gross receipts amounted to \$1,000 which is the largest sum yet taken in at a show in that city. Sharkey received \$1,500; 40 and Moore drew \$1,275.30.

Willie Jackson, who fights Ralph Brady, the Syracuse lightweight, in an eight-round bout at the Latham Sporting Club of Paterson, N. J., on Monday night, will engage in another battle tonight. He will take on Frankie Nelson, the Buffalo lightweight, for ten rounds at the Queensboro A. C. of Buffalo. Jackson is to receive a guarantee of \$1,500.

Frankie Jerome, the local fighter, and Corina Kild, another youngster who was sparring partner of Jimmy White when the Kensington Club of Jersey City had been matched by George Mulligan, the west side lightweight, and Frankie Day of one of the three two-round bouts, on Thursday night.

Dodgers Start Procession Of Home Ball Players For Southern Quarters

Faint Signs of Spring as Local Teams Prepare for Training Camps—Giants and Yankees Off To-Morrow—Babe Ruth Still in Boston.

WITH ball players actually leaving for the sunny South the winter league is about ready to close up shop. The honor of being the first home team to pull up stakes for Southern training camps fell to the Dodgers. Several of Uncle Wilbur's hearties left yesterday for Jacksonville, where the Brooklyn team will iron out the frozen joints in arms and legs.

The Giants and Yankees will get in motion to-morrow for their camps, the Yanks to Jacksonville and the Giants to their new quarters at San Antonio. The Giants' detachment will be in charge of Christy Mathewson. While his men are departing from here Manager John McGraw will sail from Havana and will be at San Antonio in time to receive his players.

Miller Huggins, generalissimo of the Yankees, who is confined to his room because of a heavy cold, gave out the names of his athletes who will leave here to-morrow for Jacksonville over the Pennsylvania and Seaboard Air Lines. George H. (Habe) Ruth, home-run monarch and highest priced baseball star of all time is one of the players scheduled to leave from this city.

Incidentally, Ruth is in Boston, and Huggins has not received any word from his famed slugger since he talked with him in San Francisco. Cal, several weeks ago. Babe, however, is perfectly satisfied with the terms the Yankees have offered him, but he has an itching palm for a portion of the money that from the time he turns over to Harry Frazee for his services.

Huggins is not worrying in the least about Ruth, and is positive that "Babe" will be at the Pennsylvania Station at 4.30 P. M. to-morrow when the Yankees' train leaves for the South. It would be surprising to see the massive form of Mr. Ruth drop into town this afternoon. He has yet to affix his signature to a New York contract.

The other players who will depart from here are George Mogridge, Herbert Thormahlen, Ping Bodie, Marie DeValia, Walter Smallwood, D. J. Murphy, Benny Geier and Al Woods, trainer of the team. Mogridge is one of the four players who is holding out for more money.

At Philadelphia the party will be met by Harry Blum, a young pitcher purchased from the Jersey City team of the International League, and Joe Kelly, one of the "lucky hunters" of the New York Club. The other players will go direct from their homes to the training camp.

Col. Huston and Harry Sparrow, business manager of the Yankees, will greet the players on their arrival at the training camp.

Al Mamoux, pitcher, "Chuck" Ward, third baseman, and Clarence Mitchell, shortstop, were the Brooklyn players to leave for the South. Accompanied by Harry Blum and the Brooklyn youngster who is now a member of the Buffalo Club, they sailed on the Clyde line steamer Empress for Jacksonville.

Mamoux has been working out every day for the last week at one of the local armories and will not need much training before he is able to cut loose with his fast ball. Ward will have to take things easy, as he recently had an operation performed on his knee. The knee bothered Ward all last season and hampered him in his work.

John Heydler, President of the National League, expects to confer with Ban Johnston again either in this city or Chicago. At the present time the new Chairman of the National Commission is almost sure to be named. It will be either Harry Edwards of this city or Harvey Woodruff of Chicago.

Harry Davis, one of Connie Mack's lieutenants, is expected to be named to coach the Athletics so that he can coach the Williams College baseball team.

Australian Champion Is Knocked Out First Time He Fights Here

Low Edwards Falls Before Ritchie Mitchell at Milwaukee in Sixth Round.

MILWAUKEE, Feb. 27.—Low Edwards, Australian lightweight champion, was sent to dreamland by Ritchie Mitchell in the sixth round of a scheduled ten-round bout held here last night. Edwards took one of the hardest beatings passed out in a local ring in years. He was knocked down by Mitchell in the second, third and fourth rounds and finally for keeps in the sixth stanza.

The bout of last night was Edwards' first appearance in an American ring. He arrived from Australia two weeks ago with intentions of going after Benny Leonard's title. In his native country Edwards had beaten all contenders and had also taken several American pugilists, including Harold Egan, Joe Mooney and Eddie Wallace, the Brooklyn lightweight, into camp.

Mitchell, the Australian's conqueror, is by no means a second rater. He came close to winning the lightweight championship when Freddie Welsh held the title by defeating a rival by a wide margin. The bout was a no decision contest. After that Ritchie clearly outpointed Johnny Kilbane and at that time Johnnie was considered the best lightweight in the country.

Edwards was knocked out in the sixth round of the fight. As a matter of fact, up to the time Benny landed the knockout, in the seventh round, Mitchell had much the better of the going. After this bout Leonard admitted that he was no longer a contender.

According to late advices from Australia, the challenge round in the Davis Cup international tennis matches of 1920 will be played in New Zealand and not in Australia, as in recent years. No reason is given for this change of venue, but it is thought in this country that the shift has been made with the idea of developing greater interest in lawn tennis in New Zealand.

It is too soon as yet to state what effect the alternating of the Davis Cup finals of the winning nation in the preliminary rounds or the Davis Cup Finals. It is more than one thousand miles from Australia to New Zealand, the trip requiring some three days by steamer.

It is considered probable that should the United States win the right to challenge Australia for the trophy during the preliminary next summer the team will sail direct from the Pacific Coast to Australia, practice there for a period and then proceed to New Zealand for the challenge round.

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